

And so you said, “I would like to see two states before I get out of office.” Not true. I’d like to see two states. And if it happens before I get out of office, I’ll be there to witness the ceremony. And if it hadn’t—if it doesn’t, we will work hard to lay that foundation so that the process becomes irreversible.

Timetables are, you know, interesting—an interesting thing. Everybody wants a timetable, it seems like, on different issues. And these are very complicated matters where years of conflict and years of mistrust are being resolved by some basic truths. And one of the basic truths is free societies are peaceful societies. And so we can look forward to working with a partner in peace, a person who said, “Vote for me. I’m for peace,” and a man who declares his understanding that the Palestinian people, the long-suffering Palestinian people, will be well served by a democracy, a truly functioning democracy.

And so, Mr. President, we’re glad you’re back. I want to thank you for your strong leadership, and we wish you all the very best. Thank you, sir. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 10:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, USA, Senior U.S. Security Coordinator, Department of State; James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. President Abbas and some reporters spoke in Arabic, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Proposed “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act”**

*October 20, 2005*

I commend the House for passing the “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.” Our laws should punish criminals who use guns to commit crimes, not law-abiding manufacturers of lawful products. This legislation will further our efforts to stem frivolous lawsuits, which cause a logjam in America’s courts, harm America’s small businesses, and benefit a handful of lawyers at the ex-

pense of victims and consumers. I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 397.

### **Proclamation 7950—United Nations Day, 2005**

*October 20, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Sixty years ago, the United Nations was created to spread hope and liberty, fight poverty and disease, and help secure human rights and human dignity for people everywhere. On United Nations Day, we recommit ourselves to the ideals on which this organization was founded.

Throughout history, the human spirit has been tested by the forces of darkness and evil. Since its founding in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations has worked to solve problems and harness the best instincts of humankind. Today, we must continue efforts to ease suffering, spread freedom, and lay the foundations of lasting peace for our children and grandchildren.

In the aftermath of last year’s tsunami in the Indian Ocean region and this month’s earthquakes in South Asia, we have witnessed the great capacity of human compassion. The support from the United Nations demonstrated how nations of the world can unite in common purpose to address difficult challenges. This enduring truth inspired those who created the United Nations, and it continues to do so 60 years later. With courage and conscience, we will meet our responsibilities to protect the lives and rights of others. As we do this, we will help fulfill the great promise of the United Nations, ensuring that all people can enjoy the peace, freedom, and dignity our Creator intended.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2005, as United Nations Day. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials

of other areas under the flag of the United States to honor the observance of United Nations Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:28 a.m., October 21, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **October 15**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **October 16**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

#### **October 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy at the White House for a meeting and lunch on October 31.

The White House announced that the President will visit Kyoto, Japan, on November 15. He will meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan on November 16. The President will then travel to Pusan, South Korea, to attend the 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting on November 18–19. He will meet with President Roh Moo-Hyun of South Korea in Gyeongju, South Korea, on Novem-

ber 17, and hold bilateral meetings with other leaders while at APEC. The President will travel to Beijing, China, on November 19. The President will then travel to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to meet with President Nambaryn Enkhbayar of Mongolia on November 21.

#### **October 18**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts and on Tropical Storm Wilma. Later, he met with James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement.

#### **October 19**

In the morning, the President had a briefing on Hurricane Wilma. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President met with the National Security Council. He then had a meeting regarding a potential avian influenza outbreak.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with musician and activist Bono, and then they had lunch in his private dining room.

Later in the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss legislative priorities.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida to discuss preparations for Hurricane Wilma. Later, he met with Gov. Bush.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne W. Patterson to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on October 7 and continuing.

#### **October 20**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority.